

18. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use, comprising the steps of :

- a) supplying said software desired to be protected to a processing apparatus ;
- b) supplying first software and, second software which being specific to a user, to said processing apparatus ;
- c) establishing a communication between said first software running on said processing apparatus, and a remote electronic transaction system ;
- d) verifying said user having a valid account, by said remote electronic transaction system ;
- e) using by said first software, a favourable result of said verification as a pre-condition for determining from said processing apparatus information related to the hardware or/and software thereof, for future reference in step f) below ;

wherein a cost is being charged from said user for the first time said steps a) to e) being carried out ; thereafter

- f) authenticating by said second software, the processing apparatus on which said second software is being used, say, second processing apparatus, basing on at least a part of said information related to said hardware or/and software ;
- g) using by said second software, a favourable result of said authentication as a pre-condition for permitting use of said software desired to be protected on said second processing apparatus, with no charge ;

if the result of said authentication is not favourable, repeat at least said steps c) to e) with said second processing apparatus, without re-charging from said user said cost .

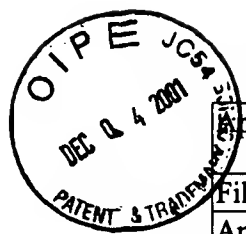
18. A method for protecting software from unauthorised use, comprising the steps of :

- a) supplying said software desired to be protected to a processing apparatus ;
- b) supplying first software and, second software which being specific to a user, to said processing apparatus ;
- c) establishing a communication between said first software running on said processing apparatus, and a remote electronic transaction system ;
- d) verifying said user having a valid account, by said remote electronic transaction system [to said first software];
- e) using by said first software, a favourable result of said verification as a pre-condition for determining from said processing apparatus information related to the hardware or/and software thereof, for future reference in step f) below ;

wherein a cost is being charged from said user for the first time said steps a) to e) being carried out ; thereafter

- f) authenticating by said second software, the processing apparatus on which said second software is being used, say, second processing apparatus, basing on at least a part of said information related to said hardware or/and software ;
- g) using by said second software, a favourable result of said authentication as a pre-condition for permitting use of said software desired to be protected on said second processing apparatus, with no charge ;

if the result of said authentication is not favourable, repeat at least said steps c) to e) with said second processing apparatus, without re-charging from said user said cost .



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Group Art Unit	2132
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Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Sir,

**Amendment on New Claim 21 Dated Oct., 19, 2001**

Pls amend claim 21 by using the accompanying replacement sheet 22.

The change being made is merely changing "the status"(last line) with "said validity status".

Respectfully submitted,

Ho Keung, Tse.

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21. A method for verifying identity of a user of a data processing apparatus, comprising the steps of :

receiving, by said data processing apparatus, information specific to a user and necessary for accessing an account of said user ;

verifying said account being valid, by an electronic transaction system, by use of said information received by said data processing apparatus;

using by said data processing apparatus, a favourable result of said verification as a pre-condition for providing user access to at least a part of the functionality of said data processing apparatus ;

wherein said access being provided without charging said account and said at least a part of functionality being not related to said validity status of said account.

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21(First Time Amended). A method for verifying identity of a user of a data processing apparatus, comprising the steps of :

receiving, by said data processing apparatus, information specific to a user and necessary for accessing an account of said user ;

verifying said account being valid, by an electronic transaction system, by use of said information received by said data processing apparatus;

using by said data processing apparatus, a favourable result of said verification as a pre-condition for providing user access to at least a part of the functionality of said data processing apparatus ;

wherein said access being provided without charging said account and said at least a part of functionality being not related to [the] said validity status of said account.